

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2003, the Office Action dated July 12, 2004, the Action (styled as a restriction requirement) dated May 5, 2005, and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated June 16, 2005. As this amendment is filed within one month of the June 16 Notice, the amendment is believed to be timely filed. If applicants are incorrect in their understanding, then this is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application as is necessary, with the authorization to charge our Deposit Account found below.

At the outset, the examiner and the undersigned discussed the status of the claims in a telephonic interview on June 6, 2005. After discussing the matter, the examiner and the undersigned agreed that it was their understanding that the amendments of the Amendment mailed April 6, 2004 had not been entered, and thus claims 1-70 were presently pending. As a consequence, applicants' Amendment of June 6, 2005 assumed this status. While the examiner graciously volunteered to prepare an examiner's amendment renumbering the claims if the examiner and the undersigned were incorrect in this regard, the Office instead issued the June 16 Notice. By this amendment, applicants renumber the claims presented by the June 6 amendment as claims 102-127, without prejudice to filing claims that are the same, similar or broader than claims 1-101 in a subsequent continuing application.

In response to the May 5 Action, applicants respectfully elect the claims 1-70.

In the November 6 Office Action, the examiner found claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20-23, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48, 50-52 to be allowable. Consequently, applicants hereby present claim 102, which includes the limitations of original claims 1, 11, 12, 14 and 15, and claim 115, which includes the limitations of original claims 31 and 41-45. Applicants also hereby present claim 113, which includes the limitations of claims 16-18, claim 114, which includes the limitations of claims 19-23, claim 125, which includes the limitations of claims 46-48, and claim 126, which includes the limitations of claims 49-52.

By this amendment, applicants present six (6) independent claims and twenty-six (26) total claims. As applicants previously paid for four (4) independent claims (three (3) at the

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time of filing and one (1) with their April 6 Amendment) and seventy (70) total claims, applicants included a check for \$400.00 with their June 6 Amendment for the fees for the two (2) additional independent claims. In any event, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 29757/AG73. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Additionally, applicants have filed two Information Disclosure Statements, dated April 12, 2004 and December 1, 2004. As the Information Disclosure Statements were timely filed with the appropriate fees, the applicants await the initialed Forms PTO-1449 signifying that the Office has reviewed the submitted references.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Dated: July 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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